

### **ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE**

A surface deviation detector and method of its use capable of detecting surface deviations associated with the edge of a document placed on the platen of a scanner. Though this detector and its method of use may be accomplished by a variety of techniques, the use of slide or transparency adapters, infrared light sources, or a plurality of light sources capable of generating shadows at document edges are preferable. Moreover, the inclusion of truncating areas of the pre-scan image not associate with the document image or rotation the document image to reduce the angle of deviation to present the document image in a more vertical position are preferable.